Message Text

SECRET

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FM USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECRET SECTO 27031

NODIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJECT: LETTER TO SENATOR BUCKLEY

FOR AHERNE FROM EAGLEBURGER

1. BELOW IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO BUCKLEY. YOU SHOULD HAVE IT TYPED, BACK-DATED TO THE DAY OF THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE, WHEELED, AND HAND DELIVERED TODAY. LET ME KNOW WHEN DELIVERY ACCOMPLISHED. 2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS: DEAR SENATOR: I HAVE YOUR TELEGRAM OF SEPTEMBER 2.

IT REPEATS THE EVANS AND NOVAK COLUNM, INCLUDING THE HIGHLY DISTORTED REPORT OF MR. LORD'S REFERENCES TO MR. SOLZHENITSYN. AND IT IGNORES THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT AND AUTHORITATIVE REPUDIATION OF THAT ARTICLE.

YOU, HOWEVER, HAVE CARRIED MATTERS BEYOND WHERE EVANS AND NOVAK LEFT THEM. YOU NOW CHARGE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS "ENGAGED IN A PROGRAM OF VILIFICATION AGAINST MR. SOLZHENITSYN," DESPITE THE FACT THAT THERE IS NOT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT SUCH A CHARGE. I FIND THAT REPREHENSIBLE.

THE FAILURE TO INVITE SOLZHENITSYN CAN PLAUSIBLY BE ARGUED TO HAVE BEEN UNWISE. BUT IT MOST CERTAINLY DID NOT GROW OUT OF THE MOTIVES WHICH YOU SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT AND I ENTERTAINED ABOUT HIM. IT IS TIME TO BRING TO AN END THE EXPLOITATION AND DISTORTION, FOR POLITICAL ENDS, OF AN INCIDENT FIFTEEN MONTHS OLD-AND MISREPRESENTED EVEN THEN.

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MY VIEWS ABOUT MR. SOLZHENITSYN ARE ON THE RECORD.

I HAVE MADE CLEAR ON COUNTLESS OCCASIONS MY DEEP ADMIRATION FOR MR. SOLZHENITSYN. HE IS ONE OF THE MOST PROFOUND CHRONICLERS OF THE HUMAN CONDITION IN THE HISTORY OF LITERATURE. WHEN HE LIVED IN THE SOVIET UNION. I INTERVENED DIRECTLY AND PERSONALLY ON HIS BEFALF WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. WHEN THE PRESIDENT ASSUMED OFFICE, I PRESENTED HIM WITH A COPY OF THE GULAG ARCHIPELAGO AND URGED HIM TO READ IT AS ONE OF THE REMARKABLE POLITICAL DOCUMENTS OF OUR TIME. THE REPETITION OF TIRED CHARGES ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S AND MY SUPPOSED BIAS AGAINST THE MAN IS BOTH GROSSLY UNFAIR AND WILDLY MISLEADING. AS FOR YOUR SUGGESTION THAT MR. SOLZHENITSYN BE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE,--WHATEVER THAT MEANS-- THE DEPARTMENT AS AN INSTITUTION DOES NOT INVITE SPEAKERS. INDEPTNDENT FORUNS AT THE DEPARTMENT MAY INVITE HIM. ALL OFFICERS ARE FREE TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF THESE GROUPS, AND AS CITIZENS THEY, LIKE YOU, MAY DRAW WHATEVER CONCLUSIONS THEY WISH ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF HIS VIEWS. BEST REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. (ADDRESSED TO:) THE HONORABLE JAMES L. BUCKLEY, UNITED STATES SENATE." 3. YOU MIGHT WANT TO SHOW A COPY OF THIS TO HIM AND S/PRS SO THEY WILL BE ARMED IN THE EVENT THERE IS ANY LEAKAGE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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